

June 22, 2023

THE NEXUS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

ICfL Awarded +\$1 Million in Grants in FY23

In state fiscal year (FY) 2023, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) awarded more than \$1 million in grants to Idaho libraries.

The variety of grants included: continuing education (CE), kindergarten readiness, summer STEM and support, school library access, that all may read, welcoming libraries, and more.

For more on the ICfL's grant opportunities, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/grants-funding/>.

Delve into the ICfL's CE grants beginning on page 2 of this newsletter.



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<https://libraries.idaho.gov>

ICfL Idaho
Commission
for Libraries

ICfL's Continuing Education Grants

To support those who work in Idaho libraries, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) offers a series of continuing education (CE) grants that are always open for application submissions. These grants allow Idaho's library workforce to grow their expertise and expand their career horizons by attending a conference for the first time, bringing a group training to their library, taking library science courses (in pursuit of a degree or not), or even completing leadership development classes. The ICfL offers these grants through generous funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For more information about these grants, visit the ICfL's continuing education grants page at: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/continuing-education/ce-grants/#first>.

In fiscal year (FY) 2023 (July 2022 – June 2023), the ICfL awarded 50 continuing education grants to 43 individuals at 26 libraries across the state, which came to a total of just over \$44,000.

First Time Conference Attendance Grant

Attending a large, national conference can be a big undertaking, especially for the first time. ICfL staff know how valuable and transformative these learning experiences can be for library professionals, which is why the First Time Conference Attendance grant is offered. This grant provides up to \$1,125 for conference registration and travel expenses.

In FY23, 26 First Time Conference Attendance grants were provided for Idaho library employees to attend the following conferences:

- PLA -- Public Library Association (1)
- ALA -- American Library Association Annual Conference (1)
- PNLA/MLA/MPLA tri-conference -- Pacific Northwest Library Association, Montana Library Association, Mountain Plains Library Association combined conference (1)
- ARSL -- Association of Small and Rural Libraries (4)
- ILA -- Idaho Library Association Annual Meeting (5)
- ABOS -- Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (1)
- ALAN -- Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (3)
- IEYS -- Idaho Early Years Conference (5)
- ALA LibLearnX -- formerly Midwinter (4)
- Northwest Council for Computer Education (1)

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ICfL's Continuing Education Grants

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Library Science Course Grant

Although there is an abundance of free learning available via webinars and asynchronous courses, sometimes a more formal and structured learning experience is needed. Whether a library worker is pursuing a master's in library science, seeking a certificate, or just interested in taking a few specific courses on a topic, the Library Science Course grant can help. This grant provides up to \$1,250 each semester for tuition, registration fees, and textbooks (up to \$7,500 total).

In FY23, 22 Library Science course grants were awarded for courses from a variety of providers, including:

- Emporia State University (7)
- University of Idaho -- independent study (3)
- ALA e-learning (3)
- University of Arizona (2)
- San Jose State University (2)
- University of Alabama (1)
- Valdosta State University (1)
- Library Journal (1)

Leadership Development Grant

The ICfL's Leadership Development grant provides support to library workers who are taking college-level leadership courses. Several Idaho colleges and universities offer leadership development courses that would qualify for this grant. This grant provides up to \$1,250 each semester for tuition, registration fees, and textbooks (up to \$3,750 total).

In FY23, one Leadership Development grant was awarded, which was to support attendance at a leadership course from the University of Idaho.

Group Training Grants

The ICfL also offers Group Training grants. This grant funding may be used for a training held at the library for library staff (and could include staff from other Idaho libraries), or a training that a group of library employees travel to. This grant provides up to \$5,000 (limited to one Group Training grant each fiscal year) to support the group training, which could include the presenter fee for onsite training or travel expenses and event registration for an offsite training.

Continuing education is a crucial tool for professional growth, career advancement, and job satisfaction, which is why staff of the Idaho Commission for Libraries make it a priority to provide these opportunities for those who work in Idaho's libraries. If you have questions about the ICfL's continuing education grants or other opportunities, please reach out to Annie Gaines, ICfL CE Consultant, at annie.gaines@libraries.idaho.gov.

Youth Explorer Passes Available

For the eighth year, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is partnering with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) to offer free state parks' passes to Idaho libraries that host summer reading programs for children and teens.



A Youth Explorer Pass will waive the entry fee for one vehicle for one day to any Idaho state park. The passes do not expire, so you may use any leftover passes from last year for your summer reading program this year. The passes may be used in a variety of ways: distribute when children sign up for summer reading; give out as prizes for summer reading; or take to outreach events. If you need more Youth Explorer Passes, order here: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/summer-reading/youth-explorer-passes/>.

The partnership between the ICfL and the IDPR came about because both agencies were trying to reach the same demographic – families who have limited access to books and are not likely to purchase a state parks' pass. With the help of Idaho libraries, this partnership continues to expose Idahoans to adventures contained in books and those found at state parks throughout the Gem State.



Free Access to Pronunciator Ends Sept. 30

The ICfL will end its support of the Pronunciator language resource on September 30, 2023. The ICfL has freely provided Pronunciator to the residents of Idaho for several years, but due to increasing costs and low usage of the database, the ICfL will be focusing its efforts and budget on other, more targeted, educational resources for Idahoans.

Although Pronunciator will be leaving LiLi.org soon, there are still a wide variety of tools on LiLi – for Idahoans of all ages. From World Book Kids and NoveList to LearningExpress and Chilton, through LiLi.org, Idahoans have free access to a wide range of online resources that support their education, business, and recreational needs.

De-Escalation Techniques

by ICfL Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter

These days, even a seemingly simple interaction can become combative. Here are some de-escalation techniques that may help to bring down the temperature of an exchange that becomes heated.

When in an emotionally charged situation, allowing “awkward silences” may be the key to lowering emotional responses. When a person is upset, they may be unable to think clearly. Give them a few moments to think through what you’ve said. A person’s stress rises when they feel rushed. Allowing time helps to bring calm.

Facts are important, but how a person feels is the heart of the matter. Yet some people have trouble identifying how they feel about what’s happening to them. Watch and listen carefully for the person’s real message. Try saying something like “That must be scary.” Supportive words will let the person know that you understand what’s happening, and you may get a positive response.

The more a person is in distress, the less they hear your words and the more they react to your nonverbal communication. Be mindful of your gestures, facial expressions, movements, and tone of voice. Keeping your tone and body language neutral will go a long way toward defusing a situation. Be aware of your position, posture, and proximity when interacting with a person in distress. Allowing personal space shows respect, keeps you safer, and tends to decrease a person’s anxiety.

Above all else – keep calm and stick to the library policies. If you have questions or need assistance, email me at clay.ritter@libraries.idaho.gov.



Why Didn't I Think of That?

The Marshall Public Library (MPL) in Pocatello has kicked off its "arts and community tickets" program, through which free tickets to a local performance of "As You Like It" and tickets to the home games of the local semi-pro baseball team, the Gate City Grays, are freely provided to local community members who have a MPL card. The library's friends group purchased the baseball tickets, and the Old Town Actors Studio provided the theatre tickets.

"Our Pocatello community offers so much for residents to enjoy, and Marshall Public Library is pleased to continue connecting people with outstanding local events through our ACT program," said Amy Campbell, Marshall Public Library.



Communications Corner

Ad Campaign

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) kicked off an advertising campaign in early June to showcase some of what today's public libraries have to offer -- beyond books.

A 30-second TV ad will run in the Treasure Valley (channel 2, KBOI-TV) and in the Magic Valley (channel 11, KMTV-TV) through late July.

A 15-second video digital ad (appears on devices) will run statewide through late July.

To view the ads, visit the ICfL's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCExw_h-fMO5aBU_W-osouKw.

The ads can be found under: "ICfL Advertising-Marketing."

Currently, there is a bookmark and flyer supporting the ad campaign. If staff of a public library would like either (or both!), please email Donna Eggers at donna.eggers@libraries.idaho.gov, with the request, including quantity and mailing address.

